

STAT

20 April 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: SWIS 36,8-99: THE PRESENT SITUATION IN YEMEN

1. This estimate, laid on by the UNID at the request of General Cabell, briefly summarizes the estimate of the Yemen situation made last November. Our conclusions are virtually unchanged.

2. The estimate was continued without incident and there are no reservations. However, two points are likely to come up at the UNID meeting:

a. State plans to propose a minor expansion of the first sentence of Para 6 (Page 4), to indicate that Masser is likely to urge that the US provide some economic aid to Yemen even though he will remain opposed to any substantial expansion of Western positions in Yemen or elsewhere in the Arab world. We would concur with the change as stated to us.

b. It may be desirable to add a sentence to Para 3 (Page 3) indicating that Badr, with Masser's approval, reportedly plans to close down all foreign diplomatic missions in Yemen and deal with foreign governments through Cairo. This is based on a Background Use Only State cable from Cairo (attached). State is checking the question of release for use in the estimate.

3. We are checking out with the representatives the following minor changes:

a. Page 1, Para 1. Add the following sentence: "The team arrived in Rome under doctor's care on 13 April."

b. Page 2, Para 3, 1st sentence. Change as follows:

"3. By undercutting the authority and prestige of the team The absence of the team, the provision Yaman's only real symbol of unity and direction, his absence will further loosen . . .

c. Page 4, Para 2. Line 7. Insert "will" before "probably"

Line 9. Insert "to" before "one dominated by"

Line 10. Insert "his" before "internal strength"

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

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Assistant Director
National Estimates

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